

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01020 211622Z
ACTION NODS-00

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-----107966 211623Z /40

R 211431Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6947

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 1020

NODIS

FOR INR SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: DGS
TAGS: PGOV, XF, US
SUBJ: DAYAN'S ASSERTION REGARDING SAUDI ARABIA

REF: STATE 42823

1. PERHAPS OTHERS WERE AS STRUCK AS I WAS BY DAYAN'S
ASSERTION (PARA. 10 REFTEL) "THAT THE SAUDIS TOOK PART
IN THE 1973 WAR ALONG SIDE THE SYRIANS AND SAUDI FORCES HAD
RECENTLY HELD JOINT WAR GAMES IN THE SYRIANS." IT HAS
BEEN WELL OVER A YEAR SINCE THE SAUDIS PACKED UP THEIR
SUPPORT GROUP HERE AND WENT HOME. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION
THAT IS WAS NEVER MORE THAN A TOKEN FORCE, MORE FOR A
SHOW OF POLITICAL SOLIDARITY THAN FOR MILITARY REASONS,
AND THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S MINIMAL PARTICIPATION IN THE 1973
WAS WAS OF THE SAME CHARACTER. THE JOINT "WAR GAMES" DATE
BACK TO 1975 AND INVOLVED ONLY C-130'S, TO BEST OUR
RECOLLECTION STAGING IN JORDAN.

2. TO CLARIFY THE RECORD, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE IT
WOULD BE USEFUL FOR INR TO PREPARE AN ACCURATE
HISTORICAL READ-OUT OF BOTH POINTS RAISED BY
FONMIN DAYAN.

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EM SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS JIDDA AND TEL AVIV.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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